

## God Changes Our Heart



*“6 At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be **changed into a different person**.... 9 As Saul turned and started to leave, **God gave him a new heart**, and all Samuel’s signs were fulfilled that day.” 1 Samuel 10:6, 9 NLT*

- Can you see a change in yourself since accepting and trusting in Christ? Do you see a progressive change in your thoughts, values, speech, and behavior as time passes?

Becoming a follower of Christ is more than adopting a new moral code, changing beliefs and values, and learning new behaviors - but rather, it is a life that starts with a redeemed and transformed heart. It is a work of the Holy Spirit on the inside of us that manifests itself on the outside.

### Israel **DEMANDED** A King

God’s work of changing hearts is illustrated in 1 Samuel 10. In chapter 8, Israel demanded that Samuel the Prophet give them a King so they could be like the world nations (8:4-9). Samuel shared with Israel the downside of their request (8:10-20). This included their young people being drafted to serve the King as servants and soldiers in his army. It also included heavy taxation of their crops, cattle, livestock, and finances. Samuel warned Israel would eventually cry out to God for relief from their King, *“18 ...but then the LORD will not help you.” 19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel’s warning. ‘Even so, we still want a king,’ they said. 20 ‘We want to be like the nations around us. Our king will judge us and lead us into battle.’” (8:18-20 NLT).*

### Saul Is **ANOINTED** As Israel’s First King

In 1 Samuel 9, Samuel meets Saul at God’s leading (9:15-17). In 1 Samuel 10, Samuel anoints Saul as King (10:1). Also, Samuel gave Saul three signs to prove that God was calling him to be Israel’s first King (10:2-6). The three signs were: (1) Saul would meet two men who would tell him that his lost donkeys have been found (10:2). (2) Saul would meet three men at the oak of Tabor who would give him three young goats, three loaves of bread, and a wineskin full of wine (10:3-4). And (3) Saul would meet a band of prophets playing music and prophesying (10:5-8). Samuel continued, *“6 At that time the Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be **changed into a different person**. 7 After the signs take place do what must be done, for **God is with you**.” (10:6-7 NLT). 9 As Saul turned and started to leave, **God gave him a new heart**, and all Samuel’s signs were fulfilled that day.” 1 Samuel 10:6, 9 NLT*

Before Saul could be Israel’s King, the Holy Spirit had to change Saul’s heart and life (10:6, 9). God wants to change all our hearts and lives. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT.*

#### Central Lesson

**The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and lives so we can accomplish God’s purposes for our lives.**

## The Basics About Life in the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit came **UPON** people of the Old Testament but **INDWELLED** the hearts of New Testament Christ-followers.

The indwelling started at Pentecost in Acts 2. If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit indwells you (John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19).

*“16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he **lives with you now and later will be in you**.” John 14:16-17 NLT*

*“Don’t you realize that your body is the **temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?**” 1 Corinthians 6:19 NLT*

2. The Holy Spirit gives us power for serving and **SPEAKING** for God (Acts 1:8), power for living in **VICTORY** over our sinful nature (Galatians 5:16-17), and produces **CHARACTER** qualities that make us attractive and Christ-like (Galatians 5:22-23).

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NLT)*

*“16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. **These two forces are constantly fighting each other**, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.” (Galatians 5:16-17)*

*“22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” Galatians 5:22-23 NLT*

3. Believers today must choose to be **“filled with the Holy Spirit,” CONTROLLED** and **EMPOWERED** by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). This is a daily moment-by-moment surrender to the Spirit.

*“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18 NLT)*

King Saul surrendered to the Holy Spirit when he began his reign as King (10:6, 9) but later neglected the Holy Spirit and lived by his selfish, sinful nature (1 Samuel 13:13-14).

*“13 ‘How foolish!’ Samuel exclaimed. ‘You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. Had you kept it, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now **your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart**. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, **because you have not kept the Lord’s command**.’” (1 Samuel 13:13-14 NLT)*

**Central Lesson: The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and lives so we can accomplish God’s purposes for our lives.**

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.